

Appln. No.: 09/997,299
Amdt. dated December 7, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 9, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims:

1. **(Currently Amended).** A method of securing access to a network (13), the network (13) including at least one first electronic device (18) and at least one access point (20), from a user (16) having a second electronic device (12), said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal (48) from the first electronic device (18);

detecting the RF signal (48) from the first electronic device (18) with the access point (20);

transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) including user information to identify the user (16);

detecting the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) with the same access point (20);

retrieving user privileges for the user (16) from a user database based upon the user information;

~~said method characterized by enabling the first electronic device (18) to allow the user (16) having the second electronic device (12) to access the network (13) and the first electronic device (18) in response to the access point (20) detecting the RF signals (48, 50) from both the first (18) and the second electronic devices (12) and based upon the user privileges; and~~

disabling the first electronic device (18) in response to either one of the signal (48, 50) strengths from the first electronic device (18) and the second electronic

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devices (12) being measured below the predetermined threshold by the access point (20)
to prevent access to the network (13) and the first electronic device (18); and

re-enabling the first electronic device (18) in response to the access point
(20) detecting the RF signals (48, 50) from the first (18) and the second electronic devices
(12) above the predetermined threshold and based upon the user privileges.

2. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 1 further including the steps of measuring a signal strength for the RF signal (48, 50) from both the first (18) and the second electronic devices (12), comparing the signal (48, 50) strengths to a predetermined threshold, and enabling the first electronic device (18) in response to both of the signal strengths being above the predetermined threshold.

3. **(Cancelled).**

4. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 2 further including the step of transmitting data from either one of the first (18) and the second electronic devices (12) to the access point (20) and routing data from the access point (20) to the other electronic device.

5. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 2 further including the step of activating either one of the first (18) and the second electronic device (12) to transmit the data directly to the other in response to instructions from the access point (20) thereby bypassing the access point (20).

6. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein the step of activating either one is further defined as transmitting timing intervals from the access point (20) to either one of the first (18) and the second electronic devices (12) and activating the one during the timing intervals to detect the other.

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7. **(Currently Amended).** A method as set forth in claim 2[[3]] further including the steps of detecting the RF signals (48, 50) from the first (18) and the second electronic devices (12) by a different access point (20), measuring the RF signal (48, 50) strengths at the different access point (20), and re-enabling the first electronic device (18) in response to the RF signals (48, 50) from the first (18) and the second electronic device (12) being above the predetermined threshold.

8. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 7 further including the step of loading user data into each of the access points (20) in response to at least one access point (20) measuring the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) as being above the predetermined threshold.

9. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 8 further including the step of synchronizing the user data from the different access points (20) to the first electronic device (18) in response the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) being above the predetermined threshold at the different access point (20).

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10. **(Currently Amended).** A method of securing access to a network (13), the network (13) including at least one first electronic device (18) and at least one access point (20), from a user (16) having a second electronic device (12), said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a radio frequency (RF) signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) including user information to identify the user (16) to establish communication with at least one access point (20);

detecting the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) with a first (21) and a second access points (23);

measuring the strength of the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) at the first and second access points (21, 23);

comparing a maximum measured RF signal (50) strength by either of the first and second access points (21, 23) to a predetermined threshold;

retrieving user privileges for the user (16) from a user database based upon the user information;

enabling a predetermined number of first electronic devices (18) in response to the detected RF signal (50) strength being above the predetermined threshold and based upon the user privileges to allow access to the network (13) and the first electronic device (18);

~~said method characterized by transmitting data from the second electronic device (12) through the access point (20) which measures the maximum RF signal (50) strength[,] to the predetermined number of first electronic devices (18) thereby establishing communication between the first electronic devices (18) and the second electronic device (12);~~

disabling the first electronic devices (18) in response to the RF signal (50) strength from the second electronic device (12) being measured below the predetermined threshold to prevent access to the network (13) and the first electronic device (18); and

re-enabling the predetermined number of first electronic devices (18) in response to the detected RF signal (50) strength being above the predetermined threshold by either of the first and second access points (21, 23) and based upon the user privileges.

11. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 10 further including the step of loading user data into the first and the second access points (21, 23) in response to the RF signal (50) from the second electronic device (12) being above the predetermined threshold at either of the first and the second access points (21,23).

12. **(Original).** A method as set forth in claim 11 further including the step of transferring communication to one of the first and second access points (21, 23) in response to the RF signal (50) strength at the other access point falling below the predetermined threshold.

13. **(Cancelled).**

14. **(Currently Amended).** A method as set forth in claim 12 [[13]] further including the step of removing the user data from the first and the second access points (21, 23) in response to the RF signal (50) strength falling below the predetermined threshold at the first and second access points (21, 23).